2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament"

Report submitted by Latvia

1. In accordance with the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its call for regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI of the Treaty and paragraph 4 (*c*) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, Latvia submits the present report.

2. Latvia continues to regard the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament under article VI of that Treaty and an important element in the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Despite some recent shortcomings, the significant role played by the Treaty in preventing proliferation, furthering nuclear disarmament and promoting co-operation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy is undeniable.

3. Latvia views achieving a positive outcome at the 2005 Review Conference as a matter of great importance and is committed to contributing actively to reaching this goal.

4. In full compliance with its international obligations, Latvia faithfully abides by the principles of non-proliferation and non-acquisition of nuclear materials or equipment used for the production of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices. Latvia has developed and is implementing a strict and effective export control system over sensitive dual use and strategic goods and technologies, including nuclear materials. Latvia cooperates with other States in order to further improve its control system so as to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials.

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5. Latvia has joined the most important nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and conventions: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1992), the IAEA Safeguards Agreement (1993), the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between Latvia and IAEA for the Application of Safeguards (2000) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (2001). Latvia also has acceded to other important conventions:

- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
- Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage
- Convention on Nuclear Safety (2000)
- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

6. Latvia is a strong supporter of effective multilateral export control regimes. Latvia has been a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group since 1997 and is a subscribing State to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Latvia is furthermore willing to join the Missile Technology Control Regime.

7. Latvia pays great attention to cooperating internationally on the issues of nuclear and radioactive safety and security. High-level participants from Latvia have taken part in the work of:

- preparatory meetings of contracting parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste;
- sessions of the General Conference of IAEA;
- Organizational meetings and review meetings of the contracting parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety;
- International Conference on Nuclear Power for the Twenty-First Century held on 21 and 22 March 2005 (the Latvian Minister of Environment participated in this event).

8. In recent years, Latvia has enacted a range of legislative measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

9. The Law on Circulation of Strategic Goods entered into force on 1 May 2004. It outlines the mechanism of control over the circulation of strategic goods in accordance with national and international interest and international requirements for monitoring their export, import and transit, in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

10. Any support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery is penalized under Latvian criminal law. Criminal law also incorporates a number of legal provisions for the suppression of terrorism.

11. Other important legislative acts related to non-proliferation efforts and nuclear and radiological safety include:

- Law on Prevention of the Laundering of the Proceeds from Crime
- The Administrative Code
- Law on Radiation Safety and Nuclear Safety (entered into force on 21 November 2000)

12. Enforcing the practical implementation of respective laws and regulations, nuclear and radiation control devices for road and rail transport are installed in all major border crossing points. Latvian border guards and customs officers also have a number of various radiation detection devices, including several monitors for the control of passengers and goods at Riga International Airport, as well as mobile X-ray units. Additional equipment and modern data communications systems with detectors will be set up on border crossings soon.

13. Currently there are no active nuclear facilities in Latvia. The only facility, a research reactor near Salaspils used from 1961 to 1998, is now in the process of decommissioning. A radioactive waste management strategy was adopted in 2004. About 15 per cent of the decommissioning programme has been carried out; it is estimated to be fully completed by 2010.

14. Latvia strongly supports efforts to enhance the safety and security of radioactive sources and physical protection of nuclear material at the international level. We welcome the latest IAEA activities in this regard.

15. Latvia considers the IAEA safeguards system as an essential mechanism of verifying compliance with the obligations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Latvia favours the universalization of the Additional Protocol and urges all the countries who have not yet signed this document to do so.

16. Latvia supports a reasonable balance between nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, which would reduce the global nuclear threat. All countries should spare no effort to curb and fight proliferation, particularly that by non-State actors.

17. Latvia attaches great importance to achieving universality and compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Latvia is deeply concerned by the latest cases of non-compliance which are undermining the Treaty. It is a matter of utmost importance to maintain the integrity of the Treaty and enhance the confidence, transparency and credibility of the Treaty process, possible only by acting in good faith and fulfilling the Treaty obligations.

18. Latvia also feels the need to address the issue of withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Any such case would be a serious setback for the Treaty and a huge threat to the entire global security system. Latvia holds the opinion that withdrawal must be avoided by all available means, and to this end considers it important to achieve a consensus on making conditions for withdrawal from the Treaty extremely difficult and costly.

19. Latvia considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty a very important element of the nuclear disarmament process. We hope that the countries concerned will take action to sign and ratify the Treaty to ensure its early entry into force. In the meantime we trust that the nuclear test moratorium will be continued.

20. Latvia supports the Proliferation Security Initiative as a tool that aims to prevent trafficking of weapons of mass destruction and related material by both State and non-State actors. The fight against proliferators should be consolidated; it is important that the goals and principles of the initiative are supported by as many countries as possible, thereby reducing the proliferators' options for attaining their objectives. Latvia also supports the Global Threat Reduction Initiative and encourages all countries to become involved in related cooperation activities.

21. Latvia also welcomes the historic adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1540 on 28 April 2004, seeing it as an important step forward in addressing the threat that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in particular by non-State actors, poses to international peace and security, and in developing closer international cooperation on this issue. Even more important is its implementation. We call on all States who have not submitted their national reports to do so as soon as possible. We appreciate the work of the 1540 Committee and are looking forward to its report.

22. At the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Latvia supported the following resolutions dealing with nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament:

- 59/63 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East"
- 59/73 "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status"
- 59/76 "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons"
- 59/81 "The Conference on Disarmament decision (CD/1547) of 11 August 1998 to establish [...] a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices"
- 59/85 "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas"
- 59/91 "The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation"
- 59/94 "Bilateral strategic nuclear arms reductions and the new strategic framework"
- 59/106 "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East"
- 59/109 "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty"

23. Latvia supports the efforts directed at creating nuclear-weapon-free zones and signing appropriate agreements, consistent with international law and agreements.

24. Latvia regrets that the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to start discussions on the fissile material cut-off treaty and establishment of an appropriate body to deal with nuclear disarmament, and expresses the hope that it will be able to start the work soon. Latvia submitted an application to join the Conference on Disarmament in 2004 and is willing to contribute to its work.